

November 29, 2017

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The signatories to this letter are rural telecommunications carriers that are participating in the Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) broadband program in the State of Oklahoma. We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible customer location before the end of 2017. Doing so would allow us to deploy broadband to substantially more rural consumers in Oklahoma, thereby increasing jobs and furthering economic development in our State.

The companies in Oklahoma that elected the revised offer of A-CAM support committed to deploy broadband to a specific number of additional locations if further funding were made available before the end of 2017. Should additional funding of up to \$200/month per location be granted this year, 1,734 more locations in Oklahoma would be guaranteed access to a minimum of 25/3 Mbps broadband service, and an additional 2,766 locations would be guaranteed access to service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The number of A-CAM funded locations that would remain on “reasonable request” in Oklahoma would decrease by 3,085 if funding is increased to this level.

Allocating this additional funding to further extend broadband to rural consumers in Oklahoma will result in far reaching economic and social benefits. Access to broadband is critical to economic growth and productivity in rural areas, which will benefit the entire nation. Oklahoma State University academic studies have found that broadband access has led to increased new business in rural areas, and high levels of broadband adoption were associated with increased median household incomes and lower unemployment levels. State government officials have stated that “easy and reliable access to technology for Oklahomans to travel along the information highway is as essential in today’s world as the construction of rail was to Oklahoma’s settlement.”

There is no reason for the Commission to delay. The mechanism to distribute the requested additional A-CAM funds is already in place. Moreover, we are already upgrading network infrastructure in our communities and if we receive additional funding now, we will be able to design our network upgrades in the most efficient manner to better serve our communities.

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We urge the Commission to act by the end of this year to allocate additional funding to carry out its original decision to provide A-CAM funding for up to \$200/month per eligible location.

Sincerely,

The Oklahoma A-CAM Companies

Carnegie Telephone Company  
Salina Spavinaw Telephone Co  
Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Oklahoma Communication Systems LLC  
Mid-America Telephone LLC  
Oklahoma Western Telephone Company

cc: Chairman Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Brendan Carr